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Koreas:
Analytic Perspective

Seeking To Maintain Momentum

North and South Korean leaders in coming months will strive to implement cooperation in less contentious areas while deferring sensitive issues that could derail progress. Seoul and P'yongyang may seek to expand academic, cultural, and sports exchanges already under way before the summit.

- South Korean academic and civic groups already have submitted numerous proposals for exchange programs.
- Korea's 55th anniversary of liberation from Japanese rule on 15 August is an opportunity for both sides to showcase other tangible results such as the first exchange of divided families.

South Korean officials want to deliver soon on promises of economic aid and redevelopment assistance, which they assess is driving P'yongyang's willingness to engage the South. Seoul plans to double the North-South Cooperation Fund to nearly \$1 billion, according to press reports.

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Steering Clear of Danger Zones


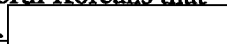
The Koreas will sidestep high-profile talks on US or bilateral troop cuts or on human and religious rights in the North, which would risk spoiling the summit euphoria in the South. The main opposition party in the South wants the legislature to oversee and impose checks on President Kim's assistance plans, and it would become even more assertive if Kim's government stumbled in dealing with sensitive issues.

Kim Chong-il's impressive summit performance and postsummit good will gestures suggest P'yongyang understands the dynamics shaping South Korean support for expanded economic assistance. The gestures included returning a South Korean fishing boat that strayed into the North's waters and canceling Korean war commemorations.



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— Kim's summit comments that he could accept an interim US troop presence suggest he realizes that controversy in the South over security issues and discord between Seoul and its allies would damage prospects for development aid. 

The North's media themes 
indicate P'yongyang wants to temper hopes among North Koreans that
engagement will bring immediate economic rewards. 

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